

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

PHYLLIS D. SALTER,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:07cv445-WC
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
MICHAEL J. ASTRUE,	)	
Commissioner of Social Security,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

**MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER**

On August 17, 2007, Defendant filed a Motion to Remand pursuant to sentence six of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) (2000) (Doc. #11).<sup>1</sup> Defendant's motion asks the Court to remand this case for further proceedings because the Appeals Council of the Social Security Administration could not locate the administrative law judge's decision dated May 9, 2005, as well as, the tape recording of Plaintiff's oral hearing held on April 7, 2005. Def.'s Mem. in Supp. Mot. to Remand (Doc. #12) at 1-2. The Commissioner states that the Appeals Council intends to remand the claim to an administrative law judge for a *de novo* hearing. *Id.* at 3.

Sentence six of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) authorizes the Court to remand a case to the Commissioner for further action if the Commissioner files a motion to remand for good cause before filing an answer. 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). Here, as mentioned above, the Commissioner

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<sup>1</sup>Plaintiff, Phyllis D. Salter, failed to respond to the Court's Order of August 20, 2007, directing Plaintiff to show cause why the motion should not be granted. Order of August 20, 2007, (Doc. #13).

voluntarily filed a motion for remand (Doc. #11). The only issue before the Court is whether the Commissioner has demonstrated good cause.

The Joint Conference Committee of Congress, in reporting upon the Social Security Disability Amendments of 1980, set forth examples of what may constitute “good cause” for remand:

Where, for example, the tape recording of the claimant’s oral hearing is lost or inaudible, or cannot otherwise be transcribed, or where the claimant’s files cannot be located or are incomplete, good cause would exist to remand the claim to the Secretary for appropriate action to produce a record. . . .

H.R. Rep. No. 96-944, 96th Cong., 2d Sess. 59 (1980); see also Gamble v. Apfel, 2001 WL 102344 at \*1 (S. D. Ala. Jan. 5, 2001).

The Commissioner concedes that the tape recording of Plaintiff’s oral hearing and the administrative law judge’s decision are lost. Accordingly, the Court finds Defendant has shown good cause for this matter to be remanded to the Commissioner for further proceedings pursuant to sentence six of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). It is therefore

ORDERED that:

- A. Defendant’s Motion to Remand (Doc. #11) is GRANTED. .
- B. This case is REMANDED for further proceedings pursuant to sentence six of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g), and for the reasons set forth in Defendant’s Motion for Remand and its Memorandum in Support of that motion (Doc. #11, #12).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>The Court observes that with entry of this sentence six remand, the Court “does not rule in any way as to the correctness of the administrative determination.” Melkonyan

Done this 27th day of August, 2007.

/s/ Wallace Capel, Jr.  
WALLACE CAPEL, JR.  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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v. Sullivan, 501 U.S. 89, 98 (1991). Thus, under sentence six, a “remand is not a final judgment under the [Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA)], and the window for filing an EAJA application does not open until judgment is entered in the district court following completion of the remand proceedings.” Jackson v. Chater, 99 F.3d 1086, 1095 (11th Cir. 1996).